



Iowa Commission of Persons with Disabilities Awards Program Nomination Criteria

The Iowa Commission of Persons with Disabilities has eight award categories. Each honors individuals or organizations for their contributions toward public awareness in employing people with disabilities. The deadline for each nomination is **July 15** and should be submitted to:

Division of Persons with Disabilities
Lucas State Office Bldg.
Des Moines, IA 50319
harlietta.helland@iowa.gov

Individual Awards

1. The Governor's Award

Purpose: This is the State's highest honor to the Iowan with a disability who has done the most to enhance the empowerment and employment of individuals with disabilities. This individual should have demonstrated outstanding achievements in the world of work and significant contributions that increase public awareness of Iowans with disabilities.

2. Commissioners' Award

Purpose: To recognize extraordinary and meritorious service of a service worker (public or private non-profit agency employee) who has substantially contributed to advancing meaningful employment for persons with disabilities. This individual will have demonstrated their understanding and achievements through their commitment for advocacy of equitable wages and job responsibilities. Results are long-term with individual satisfaction.

3. Distinguished Service Award

Purpose: To recognize extraordinary and meritorious service of a volunteer who has substantially contributed to advancing meaningful employment for persons with disabilities.

4. Youth Service Award

Purpose: This award can be given to a youth with or without a disability. This person demonstrates initiative that enhances the quality of life for persons with disabilities. This could be in a school or community project as a paid or volunteer position. The person who is selected serves as a role model, peer, and mentor to help persons with disabilities gain access to the workforce.

5. Outstanding Entrepreneur Award (NEW):

Purpose: To recognize an entrepreneur with a disability who has displayed outstanding leadership, technical skills in their field, and initiative necessary to successfully own and operate a for profit business.

Organizational Awards

6. Employer of the Year Awards

Purpose: To recognize large and small employers who have made outstanding contributions in the employment of Iowans with disabilities. A philosophy of supporting employment opportunities that is exhibited through recruiting, accommodating, employing and advancing persons with disabilities is viewed as strength. Workplace efforts related to the Americans with Disabilities Act, including architectural, programmatic, and communication are key elements. Businesses who focus on the ability of the employees (rather than the disability) are excellent nominees. Promotion of business opportunities for people with disabilities within the business community are also important elements. (Small: less than 200 employees; large: more than 200 employees)

7. Media Awards

Purpose: To recognize communications and communicators for accurately and progressively portraying the employment of people with disabilities. The recipient will have effectively portrayed people with disabilities as independent and productive through the use of words and images, focusing on stories about persons first and their disability second. Awards may come from the following categories: **Television, Radio, Photojournalism, Print, and Special Contributions (Public Service Announcements/programming, documentary, news/features, advertising, articles, and editorials)**

8. Local Committee of the Year Award

Purpose: To recognize and honor a specific activity, event or project that demonstrates excellence regarding the employment of persons with disabilities.

9. Best Accessible Design Award

Purpose: To recognize creative and outstanding design solutions that eliminate or reduce employment barriers within the community for persons with disabilities. Either new construction or renovations that make a facility or program fully accessible to persons with disabilities are encouraged. (For a special Accessible Design Nomination Form, contact staff at 1-888-219-0471).

NOMINATIONS:

Complete the Official Nomination Form

Write a 3 to 5 paragraph summary of how this individual/company/group has exemplified and contributed to the success of employment of persons with disabilities.

Please include:

- number of years of service
- past honors and/or awards
- club and/or organization affiliation
- personal/company successes
- personal information (if appropriate)
- attach newspaper articles, if possible

Include no more than three letters of support/recommendation with each nomination.

If you need additional information, contact Lisa Balduf at lisa.balduf@iwd.state.ia.us or 641-422-1508.

Official Nomination Form

Check the Award Category

The Governor's Award

Commissioner's Award

Distinguished Service Award

Media Award

Youth Service Award

Local Committee of the Year Award

Employer of the Year Award

Entrepreneur of the Year Award

Best Accessible Design Award (request special nomination form)

Nominee Information

Nominee

Name of Organization

Address

City/State/Zip

Telephone: (work)

(home)

E-mail: _____

Sponsor Information *(not required for Best Accessible Design)*

Nominator _____

Address

City/State/Zip

Telephone: (work)

(home)

E-mail: _____

Please submit form and supporting documentation no later than July 15, 2005 to:

**Division of Persons with Disabilities
Lucas State Office Building
Des Moines, IA 50319
harlietta.helland@iowa.gov**

Write a 3 to 5 paragraph summary (below) of how this individual/company/group has exemplified and contributed to the success of the employment of persons with disabilities. Please include appropriate information: numbers of years of service, past honors and/or awards, club and/or organizational affiliation, personal/company successes, and personal information if appropriate. Attach newspaper articles if applicable.

Summary of Qualifications